

Fredericksburg City Council Minutes 1839

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At a monthly meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber  
March 6<sup>th</sup> 1839

Present, Benjamin Clark, Mayor

Fayette Johnston, Recorder

C C Wellford, Jesse Curtis, Peter Spilman, A G Lucas, John Goolrick & George W Rothrock—Common  
Councilmen

The Mayor stated on the part of the Committee appointed to represent the Stock of the Corporation at the  
called meeting of the Stockholders of the Rappahannock Canal Company in December last, that a  
resolution was unanimously adopted at said meeting, by which the stockholders agreed to pledge the  
whole of the stock of the Company for a loan from the State.

The Mayor also stated to the Board, that in pursuance of the order of the council of the 5<sup>th</sup> Dec'r last, he  
had addressed a letter to the Principal Agent of the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia on the subject  
embraced in said order but had not as yet received any reply from the Agent.

The following accounts were passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain, viz;

James D Harrow's for printing &c \$25.50

Wm M Blackford's for printing &c \$12.00

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Jesse Wayte's for boxes for trees \$5.00

Bernard Coles' for wood furnished the Mayor's office \$1.75

Adolph Richards for glazing \$1.83

Edw'd McDowell's for stationary &c \$2.58

Jno S Caldwell's for sundries \$26.85

Wm D Green's for hauling dirt on Streets \$52.76

Thomas Curtis for refreshments furnished guards \$10.00

On motion it was ordered that the Clerk of the Council write to the Hon'ble Henry Clay of Kentucky &  
make the enquiry whether Richard Taylor, the son of the Commodore be now dead or alive.

On motion it was ordered that the voters of the Town at the next election of a Common Council be  
respectfully requested to designate on the back of their tickets the individual whom they may wish to  
serve as Mayor the ensuing year.

Ordered that the Mayor attend to the putting up of iron bars across the lower open windows of the Town  
Hall.

On motion the Council adjourned

Benj Clark, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber  
March the 14<sup>th</sup> 1839

Present Benjamin Clark, Mayor

Jesse Curtis, A K Phillips, H H Wallace, A G Lucas, P Spilman, John Goolrick, and Thomas F Knox—  
Councilmen

The following claims against the Corporation were passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain, viz;

Michael Ames' bill for grating to windows of Town Hall	\$41.22½
Stephen J Blaydes' bill for iron for above grating	\$23.43
A G Lucas bill for sundries	.69

Present George W Rothrock—Councilman

Ordered that the Sergeant of the Corporation credit the Bond of Littleton Goodwin for rent of Hay Scales by the sum of Ten dollars on account of scales being out of order during the year.

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Ordered that the Chamberlain pay the police officers their salaries for the present quarter.

An account of George R Peake for one dollar and fifty cents was passed and ordered to be paid.

Ordered that Jesse Curtis, George W Rothrock, H H Wallace & Alex K Phillips or any three of them be a committee to examine and settle the accounts of the Sergeant and Chamberlain & make report thereon to the Council on Monday morning next at 9 o'clock.

Ordered that the mode of conducting the election of Councilmen at the ensuing election be the same as at the last election.

Ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corporation pay to George Aler his bill (for wood &c) against the Corporation amounting to some five or six dollars, upon the same being verified by the affidavit of said Aler, as to its correctness.

On motion the Council adjourned to Monday morning next at 9 o'clock

Benj Clark, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

Monday morning March 18<sup>th</sup> 1839. The Council met pursuant to the order of adjournment of the 14<sup>th</sup> Instant

Present Benjamin Clark, Mayor

Peter Spilman, A K Phillips, G W Rothrock, J Curtis, H H Wallace, A G Lucas & T F Knox—Common Councilmen

The committee appointed to examine & settle the accounts of the Sergeant and Chamberlain of the Corporation made the following reports, viz;

On the Sergeant's account "The undersigned, a committee appointed by the Common Council of Fredericksburg to examine the account of the Sergeant of the Corporation report that they have performed that duty & find his account correctly stated & that the same stands balanced.

Given under our hands this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 1839

(Signed) G W Rothrock, Jesse Curtis, H H Wallace, A K Phillips—Committee

On the Chamberlain's account "In pursuance of an order [Page 149] of the Common Council of the 14<sup>th</sup> Inst the undersigned Committee have examined the account of Arthur Goodwin, Chamberlain of the

Corporation & find the same correctly stated and supported by proper vouchers & also that it stands balanced.

Given under our hands this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1839

(Signed) A K Phillips, G W Rothrock, Jesse Curtis, H H Wallace—Committee

Which accounts with the Reports of the Committee were ordered to be filed by the Clerk of the Council.

The Sergeant returned insolvent lists for the year as follows viz;

Of whites amounting to one hundred & seventy nine dollars & ninety cents;

Of free blacks & Mulattoes amounting to one hundred & forty two dollars and ninety three cents;

Also a list of deferred taxes amounting to one hundred & seventy dollars & seventy seven cents

And of deferred Rents two hundred & fifty dollars and eighty cents.

The Mayor returned an account of taxes received by him for affixing Corporation seal during the year, amounting to seven dollars & fifty cents, which is ordered to be paid to the Chamberlain & place to the credit of the Corporation in the Chamberlain's account for the next year.

This being the day fixed by law for the election of twelve men to serve as Common Councilmen until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in March 1840 and until others are elected in their stead. A poll was opened for that purpose and the freeholders and housekeepers of the Town having been duly notified of such election met at the Council Chamber and deposited their ballots and upon counting the same the largest number of votes were found to be given for the following persons, to wit;

H H Wallace	98
P Spilman	92
J Curtis	92
G W Rothrock	90
Jno Buck	89
Thos F Knox	87
A K Phillips	79
Charles C Wellford	75
A G Lucas	73
Jno Goolrick	58
S J Blaydes	46
Fayette Johnston	37
Wm A Jackson	35
Rich'd J Walker	34

The first named twelve of whom were declared duly elected Common Councilmen to serve for one year and until others are elected in their stead

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On motion the Council adjourned

Benj Clark, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

Tuesday evening March 19<sup>th</sup> 1839

Peter Spilman, H H Wallace, Jesse Curtis, S J Blaydes, A G Lucas, John Goolrick, George W Rothrock, A K Phillips, Thomas F Knox and C C Wellford, members elect of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg meet at the Council Chamber and severally took the oath of office before the Mayor.

The Mayor presented to the board a letter from Fayette Johnston, a member elect of the Council, requesting to be excused from serving as a member thereof, which on motion was agreed to and the Council by ballot elected Wm A Jackson to supply his place, who being notified thereof, appeared, was qualified & took his seat.

On motion, the salary of the Mayor for the present year was fixed at four hundred dollars. The Council then proceeded to the election of a Mayor for the present year when Benjamin Clark was unanimously re-elected and took the several oaths of office before Robert Dickey, a Justice of the Peace for the Corporation of Fredericksburg.

The Council then balloted for a Recorder when H H Wallace was elected who also took the several oaths of office before the Mayor.

On motion the salaries of the following officers of the Corporation were fixed at the following sums, viz;

Clerk of the Council	\$50
Chamberlain of the Corporation	\$150
Police officers (each)	\$200
Commissioner of the Revenue	\$60
Clerk of the Market	\$100
Bellman	\$50
Jailor	\$50

& commission to Collector of Taxes & Rents, same as last year. The vote on fixing the salaries of the Chamberlain at \$150 & of the Police Officers at \$150 each was taken by Ayes and Noes, as follows viz;

On the Chamberlain [Page 151]

Ayes, S J Blydes, P Spilman, A G Lucas, A K Phillips, Jesse Curtis, T F Knox, G W Rothrock, C C

Wellford & William A Jackson 9

Noes, H H Wallace & John Goolrick 2

On the Police Officers at \$150 each

Ayes, S J Blydes, H H Wallace, G W Rothrock & John Goolrick 4

Noes, P Spilman, A G Lucas, A K Phillips, Jesse Curtis, T F Knox, C C Wellford and Wm A Jackson 7

Which last vote not being carried the salaries of the Police officer were then fixed at \$200 each.

The Council then proceeded to the election of Officers for the present year when Arthur Goodwin was elected Clerk of the Council and Chamberlain of the Corporation; John S Caldwell police officer and Collector of Taxes & Rents; Bernard Cole and George Aler, assistant Police officers; John Metcalfe, Commissioner of the Revenue, Matthew D Anderson, Clerk of the Market; Jesse White, Bellman; John Goolrick Surveyor and Geographer of the Corporation; Samuel Phillips, Inspector and Measurer of Wood, Lumber &c &c at the Wharf; Bernard Cole, Inspector & Measurer of Wood, Lumber &c &c at the Basin; John B Alexander, Inspector and Measurer of Wood, Lumber &c &c at the Depot; Robert Parrott Guager and Matthew D Anderson, Measurer of Coal, Salt, Grain &c &c

Arthur Goodwin, John S Caldwell, Bernard Cole, George Aler, John Goolrick and Matthew D Anderson severally qualified to office before the Mayor.

The following standing Committees were appointed by the Mayor, viz;

On Public Property, John Goolrick, H H Wallace, P Spilman, John Buck  
On Pumps, C C Wellford, A G Lucas, A K Phillips, Thomas F Knox  
On Streets, S J Blaydes, Jesse Curtis, George W Rothrock, William A Jackson

On motion it was ordered that the tax on all dray & cart licenses issued between the 1<sup>st</sup> April and the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1839 shall be five dollars on all issued after the first of November 1839 & before the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1840 shall be three dollars. And on Waggon licenses issued between the 1<sup>st</sup> April & the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1839 eight dollars, on all [Page 152] issued after the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1839 & before the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1840 five dollars.

On motion the Council adjourned  
Benj Clark, Mayor  
A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1839

Present Benjamin Clark, Mayor  
H H Wallace, Recorder  
William A Jackson, Peter Spilman, Jesse Curtis, Geo W Rothrock, A G Lucas—Common Councilmen

John Buck a member elect appeared and was qualified before the Mayor

The Mayor stated the Council had been convened for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of adopting some regulations on the subject of renting the stalls in the Market house, the Committee on public property having stated that they were not rented at the usual time of letting in consequence of the lowness of the bids offered for them.

The Mayor presented to the board a letter from Mr John Goolrick tendering resignation of his seat as a member of the Council which being read, his resignation was accepted & the Council having balloted for a member to supply his place, Richard J Walker was unanimously elected.

Present, Thomas F Knox, S J Blaydes—Councilmen

Ordered that the Committee on Public Property enquire into the propriety of erecting Iron railing (with gates) across the several entries into the market space, and also ascertain the probable cost of such improvements & report thereon to the next meeting of the Council.

Ordered that the rent for the stalls in the Market House shall not be less than thirty dollars, each, for the present year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1840, and that the Committee on Public Property be instructed to let the same out at public auction for a sum not less than thirty dollars each.

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On motion the Council adjourned  
Benj Clark, Mayor  
A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 1839

Present, Benjamin Clark, Mayor

Howson H Wallace, Recorder  
Peter Spilman, Jesse Curtis, A G Lucas, A K Phillips, Thomas F Knox—Councilmen

Richard J Walker elected to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr John Goolrick appeared was qualified and took his seat.

The Mayor presented the Board a letter from J Ruthefoord, Prin Agent of the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia in reply to his (on the subject of said Society's contributing its aid towards defraying the expense of laying iron pipes in the Street) directed by an order of the Council of [blank] 1839, which was read and ordered to be filed.

A letter of Daniel Coakley praying to be refunded the amount of a fine imposed on him for a violation of the Market Ordinance was read and on Motion, ordered to lie on the table.

The following ordinance entitled "An Ordinance regulating the manner of renting the Butcher's Stalls in the Market House and for other purposes" was read and passed.

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that hereafter the Committee on Public Property shall, annually before renting out the butcher's stalls in the Market House fix the distance to which each stall with blocks, benches and other fixtures shall extend out from the side Wallace and also assess the amount of rent to be required for each stall for the year. And after such assessment, it shall be the duty of the Sergeant of the Corporation under the superintendence of said Committee to put up each stall at public auction to the highest bidder, taking the amount assessed upon each by said Committee as the lowest sum for which the same shall be rented for the year.

2. Be it further ordained that no Butcher shall rent more than [Page 154] two stalls in any one year, and that no butcher or other person besides those who have rented a stall or stalls for the year shall sell or expose for sale in the Market House or Market space, any meats or fish of the kinds hereinafter named, except upon the payment of the following rates, to wit:

For each slaughtered bullock, cow or steer twenty five cents

For each veal, mutton or lamb ten cents

And for each sturgeon ten cents

And if any butcher or other person occupying a stall or stalls rented by them shall thereat dispose of meats for the benefit of others, he or they shall be liable to pay for all meats sold at said stalls for the benefit of others, the same rates the owners thereof would have been liable to pay, if the same had been sold by them.

3. Be it further ordained that it shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Market daily to demand and receive from the persons liable for the payment of the same, the rates fixed in the preceding section and in the event of their failure or refusal to pay, the party so failing or refusing shall be liable to a fine of one dollar to be recovered by warrant, with costs, before the Mayor or any other Justice of the Peace of the Town aforesaid, which warrant shall be brought in the name of the Chamberlain of the Corporation.

4. Be it further ordained that all monies shall enure to the use of the Corporation and it shall be the further duty of the Clerk of the Market to keep a regular account of all such, and pay over the same quarterly to the Chamberlain of the Corporation; and as compensation for his services herein, he shall be allowed a commission of ten per cent on the amount collected.

This ordinance shall be in force from and after the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 1839.

Richard J Walker was placed on the Committee on Public Property in the place of John Goolrick resigned.

On motion the Council adjourned  
Benj Clark, Mayor  
A Goodwin, CC  
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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber May the 14<sup>th</sup> 1839

Present Benj Clark, Mayor  
H H Wallace, Recorder  
S J Blaydes, P Spilman, J Curtis, C C Wellford, Thomas F Knox, Geo W Rothrock, Wm A Jackson, A G Lucas—Common Councilmen

The official bond of the Chamberlain with Reuben T Thom and John Coakley as securities was submitted to the Board, approved & ordered to be filed by the Mayor.

The Commissioner of the Revenue returned a list of taxable property, whereupon it was on motion Ordered that the taxes on persons and property for the present year be as follows, viz;

On real estate 4 pr cent on the annual value thereof

On each white male above the age of sixteen years \$1.50

On each slave above 12 years of age \$1.50

On each free Negro above the age of sixteen years, as follows to wit,

On males \$1.50

Females \$1.00

On each horse \$1.50

On every carriage, Cariole, Gig, Phaeton, or pleasure carriage of any description of the value of \$100 or under \$2.00

For each over the value of \$100, 2 pr ct on the value thereof

The Clerk submitted to the board a letter from the Hon'ble Henry Clay on the subject named in the order of Council of the [blank] day of [blank] which being read, it was on motion

Ordered that the Mayor wait upon Mr Marye the agent of the holders of the lease of House on Commerce Street supposed to have reverted to the Corporation, & shew him said letter & ascertain what is his determination in relation to the surrender of said house to the Corporation.

The Mayor submitted to the Board a letter from the Principal Agent of the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia on the subject of an appropriation by said Society toward aiding the Corporation in laying iron pipes for conducting water from the Basin along the Streets which was read and ordered to lie [Page 156] on the table.

On motion the Council adjourned  
Benj Clark, Mayor  
A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber June 6, 1839

Present Benjamin Clark, Mayor  
Howson H Wallace, Recorder

P Spilman, S J Blaydes, Jesse Curtis, A K Phillips, Thomas F Knox, A G Lucas, Rich'd J Walker—  
Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated the Council had been convened by him at the instance of several citizens of the Town to consider an application for the payment by the Corporation of a reward of \$100 offered for the apprehension of the slaves recently convicted of breaking into and robbing several stores and warehouses of citizens of the Town. Whereupon a motion was made that the Corporation pay said sum which was negative.

Ordered that the Chamberlain pay Jesse Wayte's bill for railing in the Mayor's office amounting to two dollars.

The official bond of the Sergeant of the Corporation with Sam'l Phillips & A K Phillips as securities was submitted to the Board, approved & ordered to be filed by the Mayor.

It being stated by the Mayor that information had been given him that Mr Francis W Taliaferro, in carrying his operations at his stone quarry a few miles below the Town is endangering the navigation of the River to a considerable extent, it was on motion

Ordered that H H Wallace and A K Phillips be a committee to examine into the fact, whether the operation at said quarry are likely to tend to the injury of the navigation of the River & in making said examination the Committee are requested to associate with them any two or more experienced individuals and make report to the Council as early as practicable

On motion the Council adjourned

A Goodwin, CC

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Thursday evening September 19<sup>th</sup> 1839. At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber

Present Benjamin Clark, Mayor

Howson H Wallace, Recorder

Geo W Rothrock, Stephen J Blaydes, Peter Spilman, Alex K Phillips, Jesse Curtis, A G Lucas—Common Councilmen

Ordered that the Chamberlain pay to the Police Officers their salaries for the quarter ending this day

An account of the Clerk of the Hustings Court for glazing done at the Clerk's office amounting to one dollar & sixteen cents was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain.

The Chamberlain presented to the Board Corporation notes, amounting to one dollar & twelve cents, redeemed by him, which was approved & said notes ordered to be destroyed, which was accordingly done.

Present, John Buck—Councilman

The Mayor have stated to the Board that some of the Citizens of the Town are very fearful that the Bridge now contemplated to be erected by the Rail Road Company across the River will prove injurious to the navigation of the River & consequently to the interests of the Towns people. It was on motion



Ordered that the Mayor be requested to call upon the President of said Company & ask him for the plan of the construction of said bridge, the number of piers to be erected in the bed or channel of said River &c and also such information on the subject generally as may be deemed of interest and to make his report thereon to the Council.

An account of Bernard Cole for killing dogs amounting to sixteen dollars was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain

On motion the Council adjourned

Benj Clark, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

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Pursuant to a notice from the Mayor, the Common Council met at the Council Chamber the 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 1839

Present, Benjamin Clark, Mayor

Howson H Wallace, Recorder

John Buck, Peter Spilman, Jesse Curtis, Thos F Knox, Albert G Lucas, C C Wellford, Geo W Rothrock, Rich'd J Walker & Alex K Phillips—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated that the Council had been convened for the purpose of considering a proposition of Mr Wm D Green concerning the drawing of a scheme of a lottery, under the Act of the General Assembly, entitled “An act for raising by Lottery a sum of money for improving the Main Street of Fredericksburg” passed Jan’y 5<sup>th</sup> 1804; and Mr Green being present was requested to give his own views to the Council, whereupon Mr Green stated his proposition to the Council and on motion the Council adjourned for the purpose of considering said proposition.

(Signed) Benj Clark, Mayor

Jno S Caldwell, Clerk pro tem

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 1839

Present Benjamin Clark, Mayor

H H Wallace, Recorder

Geo W Rothrock, Peter Spilman, Wm A Jackson, Jesse Curtis, A K Phillips, Richard J Walker—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated that the Council had been convened for the purpose of further considering the proposition of Mr Wm D Green in relation to the drawing of a scheme of a Lottery under the Act of the Legislature passed the 5<sup>th</sup> January 1804, entitled “An act for raising by lottery a sum of money for improving the Main Street of Fredericksburg” Whereupon the following Preamble and Resolutions was passed, viz;

Whereas by an Act of Assembly entitled as aforesaid [Page 159] the Corporation of Fredericksburg is authorized to raise by Lottery a certain sum of money in said Act specified to have the streets of the town aforesaid, and whereas Wm D Green of the Town aforesaid has proposed to the Mayor & Commonalty that he would pay five hundred dollars for the privilege of drawing one scheme of said Lottery (to be drawn on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> December Instant) and moreover that he would execute a bond with good and sufficient security in the sum of sixty thousand dollars payable to the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town aforesaid, conditioned for the payment of all prizes in said scheme & also in the event of said

Lottery not being drawn for the refunding of all monies paid for tickets in said lottery to the purchasers of the same, and that he would deposit the money for all tickets sold in such lottery before the day of the drawing thereof in the Farmers Bank of Virginia to the credit of the Commissioners to be appointed by the Council for drawing said scheme.

Therefore, Resolved that the said Wm D Green, upon complying with the above specified terms and conditions (the securities to the said bond to be first approved by the Council) shall have the privilege of drawing one scheme in said Lottery.

Ordered that an account of Bernard Cole amounting to two dollars and twenty five cents for wood furnished the Mayor's office be paid by the Chamberlain

On motion the Council adjourned

Benj Clark, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Mayor's office the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1839

Present Benjamin Clark, Mayor

Jesse Curtis, Rich'd J Walker, Peter Spilman, John Buck, A G Lucas, G W Rothrock & Thomas F Knox—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated the Council had [Page 160] been convened to consider the bond executed by Wm D Green and his securities in pursuance of the Resolution of the Council at its last meeting, whereupon The Bonds of the said Green in the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars with Wm J Roberts, Hugh M Patton, John S Wellford, William Jackson, John M Herndon and Peter Goolrick as his securities was read by the Clerk, approved and ordered to be filed by the Chamberlain.

Ordered that Wm J Roberts, Hugh M Patton, John S Wellford, William Jackson, John M Herndon and Peter Goolrick the securities to the bond of Wm D Green be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners to superintend the drawing of the said scheme of the Lottery named in said bond.

Ordered that the salary of Bernard Cole as Police officer for the quarter ending the 19<sup>th</sup> Instant be paid by the Chamberlain.

Ordered that the salary of George Aler as Police Officer for the quarter ending the 19<sup>th</sup> Instant be withheld by the Chamberlain for non-compliance with the duties of his office

Ordered that an account of John S Caldwell for work done on the Streets &c amounting to one hundred and thirty four dollars be paid by the Chamberlain

On motion the Council adjourned

Benj Clark, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC